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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/044,684	11/09/2001	Robin P. Yergenson	10012411-1	9702
7590	11/03/2004		EXAMINER	
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY			FOX, CHARLES A	
Intellectual Property Administration			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
P.O. Box 272400				3652
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400				

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/044,684	YERGENSON, ROBIN P. <i>cf</i>
	Examiner Charles A. Fox	Art Unit 3652

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 August 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 November 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

Claim Objections

Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: the newly added limitation of the latching hub having a perimeter found in section (a) is in the wrong section. This limitation should be placed in the claim after the latching hub has been introduced into the claim, for example it should be placed in section (b) of the claim. In the art rejection of this claim below the limitation is considered as being in section(b) as outlined above. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,3-8,10-13, and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Woodruff et al. In regards to claims 1 and 13 Woodruff et al. disclose an object retention system on a rotatable carousel comprising:

a latching hub (34) with a vertical axis of rotation (36) and a perimeter (not numbered);

at least one object (60) within the carousel, said object radially and outwardly disposed in relation to said perimeter and having a latch reciprocal (172) for mating with said hub;

at least one retainer (140) adjacent each object configured to maintain contact between the latch reciprocal and the latching hub.

In regards to claims 3 and 15 Woodruff et al. also disclose the latch reciprocal as being a prominence on the object and the latching hub has a depression (170) for receiving said prominence.

Regarding claims 4,5,16 and 17 Woodruff further discloses the retainer which form part of the latching hub is springable to permit insertion and removal of said object.

In regards to claims 6,7,18 and 19 Woodruff et al. further disclose the latching hub is substantially coextensive with the objects and that the latch reciprocal is mounted centrally between the ends of the object.

Regarding claim 8 Woodruff et al. disclose a method of securing objects in a rotatable carousel comprising the steps:

mounting a latching hub about the axis of rotation of the carousel;

providing a retainer within said carousel;

inserting an object having a latch reciprocal into the carousel;

mating the latch reciprocal with the hub such that the object is held outward of the perimeter of the hub;

wherein the retainer maintains contact between the latch reciprocal and the hub.

Regarding claim 10 Woodruff et al. also disclose the step of providing each latch reciprocal with a prominence and forming a depression in the hub to receive said prominence.

In regards to claims 11 and 12 Woodruff et al. also disclose the step of inserting the object into the hub further comprises the steps:

the object displaces a retainer which forms part of the hub, permitting the latch reciprocal to partially bypass the hub;

the retainer returning to lock the latch reciprocal against the hub.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2,9 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Woodruff et al. as applied to claims 1,8 and 13 above, and further in view of Dodd et al. Woodruff et al. teaches the limitations of claim 1,8 and 13 as above, they do not teach a latch reciprocal prominence as being on the hub. Dodd et al. US 3,809,263 teach a rotatable carousel for retaining objects wherein said carousel and said objects both have latch reciprocals that consists of a prominence and a recess. As such they teach that the latch reciprocal may be either a prominence, a recess or both if desired. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention to provide the device taught by Woodruff et al. with a prominence on the hub as taught by Dodd et al. in as an obvious design choice over the recess in the hub, said choice having the same expected results as the Woodruff et al. teaching.

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on June 18, 2004 have been entered into the record.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,8 and 13 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles A. Fox whose telephone number is 703-605-4294. The examiner can normally be reached between 7:00-5:00 Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached at 703-308-3248. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



EILEEN D. LILLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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10-21-04